

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on August 11, 2008, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 are pending in the present application and claim 1 has been amended. Applicant submits that claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 9-327149 (the '149 reference) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,559,027 (the '027 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses each of these rejections for at least the following reasons. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the '149 reference in view of the '027 reference and further in view of US Patent No. 5,070,284 to Patil et al. (the '284 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the internal cylinder. Specifically, amended claim 1 now recites, "an outer circumference of the internal cylinder is slidably supported only by a bush installed at an inner circumference of a lower end of the external cylinder". The support provided by this orientation can provide for a slide friction between an outer surface of the internal cylinder and inner surface of the external cylinder to be very small and allow for a smooth

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operation between the internal and the external cylinders. (See Applicant's specification, paragraph [0053].)

The Examiner uses the '149 reference to teach, 'an outer circumference of the internal cylinder (12) is slidably supported by a bush (14) installed at an inner circumference of a lower end of the external cylinder (6). However, as shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 4 of the '149 reference, the internal cylinder (12) of the '149 reference is slidably supported by a bush (14) and an outer surface of a ball-nut (11) to an external cylinder (6). There, in the '149 reference, the outer circumference of the internal cylinder (12) is supported by multiple portions and therefore will have a larger amount of slide friction between the internal cylinder (12) and the external cylinder (6) than that of the present invention. Further, smooth operation of a ball-screw nut (11), which converts telescopic motion of a shock absorber, is prevented in the '149 reference, because of the slide friction of the internal cylinder (12) and the external cylinder (6).

Additionally, the '027 reference discloses an electromagnetic shock absorber, but fails to disclose, teach or imply, "an outer circumference of the internal cylinder is slidably supported only by a bush installed at an inner circumference of a lower end of the external cylinder." Instead, the '027 reference teaches an internal cylinder (34) that is slidably inserted into an external cylinder (1), however the internal cylinder (34) maintains contact with the external cylinder (1) throughout its range of motion. Therefore, a large amount of slide friction will

be present between the internal cylinder (34) and the external cylinder (1) and smooth operation of a ball-screw mechanism (38, 5) is prevented.

Therefore, the '149 and '027 references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or inherently imply "an outer circumference of the internal cylinder is slidably supported only by a bush installed at an inner circumference of a lower end of the external cylinder" as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the '149 reference and the '027 reference, either alone or in combination. Additionally, claims 6 and 8 depend from independent claim 1 and, therefore, are also believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses, and requests reconsideration of, these rejections based on this reference.

Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1 and, therefore, incorporates all of the claim limitations recited in claim 1. As mentioned previously, the '149 reference and the '027 reference fail to disclose, teach or imply "an outer circumference of the internal cylinder is slidably supported only by a bush installed at an inner circumference of a lower end of the external cylinder" as recited in amended claim 1, therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the '149 reference and the '027 reference, either alone or in combination.

Additionally, the '284 reference discloses a motor 104 and a cylinder member (as seen in Fig. 1), but fails to disclose, teach or imply "an outer circumference of the internal cylinder is slidably supported only by a bush installed

at an inner circumference of a lower end of the external cylinder" as recited in amended claim 1, therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over the '149, '027 and '284 references either alone or in combination, as well as, claim 4 which depends from independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses, and requests reconsideration of, this rejection based on these references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below.

Should any fee be required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and is requested to advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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